

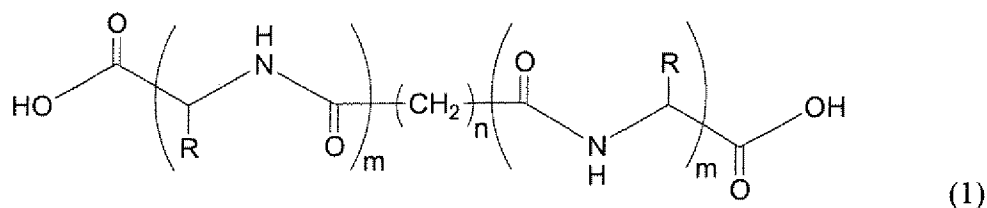
I. **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A spherical microcapsule comprising:

(i) a fine spherical body having a nearly spherical shape with a particle diameter of from 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 15  $\mu\text{m}$  which comprises a compound represented by the following formula (1):



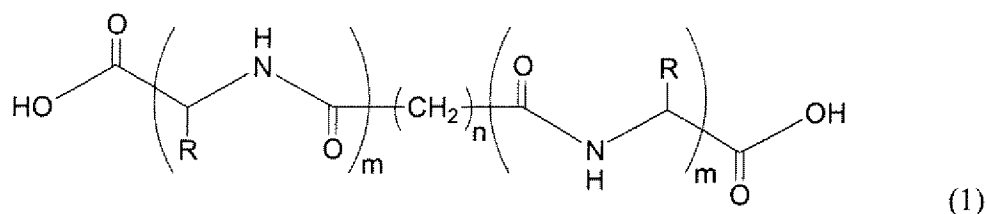
wherein R represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, n is an integer of 8 to 20, and m is an integer of 1 to 3; and

(ii) a hydrophilic core substance encapsulated inside the fine spherical body, wherein the microcapsule has a hydrophilic surface comprising COOH moieties, wherein the microcapsule has a uniform molecular orientation, evenly oriented in a radial pattern from a center, and a concentric molecular orientation having point disclination, and

wherein, when observed using a fluorescent microscope, the microcapsule emits fluorescence owing to pyranine as the inclusion compound.

15. (New) A spherical microcapsule comprising:

(i) a fine spherical body having a nearly spherical shape with a particle diameter of from 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 15  $\mu\text{m}$  which comprises a compound represented by the following formula (1):



wherein R represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 4 to 5 carbon atoms, n is an integer of 8 to 20, and m is an integer of 1 to 3; and

(ii) a hydrophilic core substance encapsulated inside the fine spherical body, wherein the microcapsule has a hydrophilic surface comprising COOH moieties, wherein the microcapsule has a uniform molecular orientation, evenly oriented in a radial pattern from a center, and a concentric molecular orientation having point disclination.

16. (New) The spherical microcapsule of claim 15, wherein the hydrophilic core substance is pyranine.

17. (New) The spherical microcapsule of claim 16, wherein the microcapsule emits fluorescence owing to the pyranine as an inclusion substance when observed using a fluorescent microscope.